

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAI-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 077211

R 081433Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1947

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW, SW

SUBJECT: PRIMIN PALME ON BRANDT RESIGNATION

1. PALME MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON TV MAY 7 RE BRANDT RESIGNATION:

"NOTHING CAN UNDERMINE THE DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY WILLY BRANDT TO PEACE IN EUROPE. IT WILL ENDURE. BUT HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE OFFICE OF FEDERAL CHANCELLOR IS A DIRE LOSS TO THE CONTINUED ENDEAVOURS FOR PEACE AND DETENTE IN EUROPE - AND IN THE WHOLE WORLD.

"THE EAST GERMAN STATE HAS COMMITTED A SHOCKING BREACH OF FAITH. IN THEIR STALINIST FERVOUR THEY HAVE NOT UNDERSTOOD THAT DETENTE MUST BE BUILT ON HONEST AND TRUST. IT IS ALSO DISTRESSING TO SEE HOW REACTIONARY FORCES ARE SEEKING TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION FOR THEIR OWN ENDS.

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"WE RUN THE RISK OF AN UGLY POLARIZATION OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF INTOLERANCE AND DOGMATISM. THOSE WHO ARE WORKING FOR PEACE, SOCIAL EQUALITY AND AN OPEN AND TOLERANT DEMOCRACY MUST DEFEND THEIR IDEAS WITH EVEN GREATER ENERGY AND DETERMINATION. I AM CONVINCED THAT WILLY BRANDT WILL BE IN THE VANGUARD OF THAT STRUGGLE."

2. AFTER STATEMENT, TV INTERVIEWER ASKED HIM WHETHER HIS HARSH WORDS WOULD CAUSE BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GDR. PALME JUST SMILED AND SAID, "I HAVE SPOKEN THE TRUTH."

3. COMMENTS: PALME'S HARSH BUT CAREFULLY PREPARED WORDS REFLECT HIS WELL-KNOWN AND WELL-PUBLICIZED PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH BRANDT AS WELL AS CONCERN FOR FUTURE OF SPD GOVERNMENT IN FRG. THESE ARE THE ROUGHEST WORDS PLAME HAS USED ON A SOVIET-BLOC GOVERNMENT IN RECENT MEMORY. PRESUMABLY HE JUDGED THEY WON'T DO TOO MUCH HARM TO RELATIONS WITH GDR, WHICH HAS, IN ITS FAMILIAR ILL-TEMPERED WAY, BEEN TRYING TO CURRY FAVOR HERE.
OLSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STOCKH01982
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740111-1132
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740563/aaaacekt.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIMIN PALME ON BRANDT RESIGNATION
TAGS: PINT, GE, SW, (BRANDT, WILLY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005